

Remarks

Claims 1-24 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-24 are rejected. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims define allowable subject matter.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) a one month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response of the Office Action dated September 29, 2004 for the above identified patent application from December 29, 2004 through and including January 29, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge deposit account 01-2384 in the amount of \$120.00 to cover this extension of time request is also submitted herewith.

Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 16-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Levinson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,098,408). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Levinson et al. describes a system for regulating reticle temperature in a microlithography system. In particular, a back plate 20 supports a reflective reticle 22, which includes an imaging pattern 24. The backplate 20 is part of a chuck assembly 28 for supporting and positioning the reticle 22 during a lithographic process (column 4, lines 33-37). A plurality of thermal electric coolers 30 are distributed on the bottom side of the backplate 20. The thermoelectric coolers 30 provide for heating and/or cooling the backplate 20 so as to regulate temperature of the reticle 22 (column 4, lines 46-50). The thermoelectric cooler 30 includes a matrix of thermoelectric elements 42 formed of n-type and p-type semiconductor material. The thermoelectric elements 42 are connected electrically in series and thermally in parallel. The thermoelectric elements 42 are interposed between two ceramic plates 48-50. The two ceramic plates 48, 50 define either a cold side 48 or hot side 50 depending on a DC voltage connection. With a positive DC voltage applied to an n-type thermoelement (not shown), electrons pass from a p-type thermoelement (not shown) to the n-type thermoelement and the cold side temperature will decrease as heat is absorbed (column 4, lines 51-64).

A temperature monitoring system 54 is also provided operatively coupled to the processor 60 and the reticle 22 (via the backplate 20). The temperature monitoring system 54 operates to monitor temperature of the reticle, preferably at a plurality of portions of the reticle 22. Temperature data relating to the reticle portions are provided to the processor 60 which employs this data in controlling the thermoelectric cooling system 50 to regulate reticle temperature (column 6, lines 9-15). Further, each of a thermistor TR is operatively coupled to the processor 60 to provide the processor 60 with temperature data relating to the portion of reticle 22 that thermistor TR is monitoring, respectively. Based on the information received from the thermistors as well as other information, the processor 60 drives the voltage driver 110 operatively coupled thereto to control the thermoelectric coolers in a desired manner in order to regulate the temperature of the reticle 22 (column 7, lines 1-10).

Claim 1 recites a temperature regulator that adjusts the temperature of an X-ray detector comprising “a thermo-electric device having a positive voltage contact and a negative voltage contact that responds to the controller being in receipt of the temperature data from the thermal sensor...” Levinson et al. fails to describe or suggest the claimed positive voltage contact and negative voltage contact. In particular, Levinson et al. describes that cooling is proportional to current amplitude and the number of thermal electric elements 42 (column 4, lines 64-66). Further, the thermoelectric elements 42 are connected electrically in series and thermally in parallel (column 4, lines 55-57). Thus, it is not possible for the two ceramic plates 48 and 50 to act as a positive contact and negative contact, respectively. This would only be possible if the thermoelectric elements 42 were arranged electrically in parallel. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Levinson et al.

Claims 2-9 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-9 are likewise patentable over Levinson et al. for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claim 10, as amended, recites a method for regulating device temperature comprising “adjusting via a positive voltage contact and a negative voltage contact a current that enters a thermo-electric device in order to change the device temperature.” As discussed above, Levinson et al. fails to describe or suggest adjusting a current via a positive voltage contact

and a negative voltage contact. Therefore, Applicants submit that for at least the reasons set forth above, claim 10 is patentable over Levinson et al.

Claims 11-15 depend from independent claim 10. When the recitations of claims 11-15 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent claims 11-15 are likewise patentable over Levinson et al. for at least the reasons set forth above. Claims 16 recites a system that adjusts a temperature in a X-ray detector comprising “a thermo-electric device having a positive voltage contact and negative voltage contact that responds to the controller being in receipt of the temperature data from the thermal sensor...” As discussed above, Levinson et al. fails to describe or suggest a thermo-electric device having a positive voltage contact and a negative voltage contact that responds to a controller being in receipt of temperature data from a thermal sensor. Therefore, Applicants submit, for at least the reasons set forth above, that claim 16 is patentable over Levinson et al.

Claims 17-22 depend from independent claim 16. When the recitations of claims 17-22 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent claims 17-22 are likewise patentable over Levinson et al. for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 16-19 and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by El-Husayni (U.S. Patent 5,940,780). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

El-Husayni describes a heat flow meter for measuring the thermal properties of a specimen. Specifically, an upper surface plate 16 is thermally coupled to an upper thermoelectric unit 30, which is thermally connected to an upper heat sink 32. Heat sink 32 is a flat plate with a set of conduits constructed to carry a circulating fluid. The fluid circulates in a closed fluid circuit between upper heat sink 32 and a lower heat sink 54. Similarly, the lower module includes a lower heat flux transducer 42, which is in thermal contact with specimen 2 and is thermally coupled to lower surface plate 44, made of a material with high thermal conductivity (column 5, lines 17-26). Thermocouples 46 and 48 measure the temperature of lower surface plate 44. Surface plate 44 is thermally coupled to a lower thermoelectric unit 50, which in turn is thermally coupled to lower heat sink 54. Lower

heat sink 54, similarly as upper heat sink 32, includes a set of conduits for carrying a circulating fluid (column 5, lines 31-36).

In operation, a DC power supply 60 provides electric power to upper thermoelectric unit 30 and lower thermoelectric unit 50 connected in series. Both thermoelectric units 30 and 50 include several identical thermoelectric devices each consisting of pairs of an N-type semiconductor and a P-type semiconductor located between two ceramic substrates (a cold face and a hot face). Identical thermoelectric devices 30A, 30B, 30C, 30D, . . . , are wired in parallel and thermally coupled to a hot face 28 and a cold face 29. Similarly, identical thermoelectric devices 50A, 50B, 50C, 50D, . . . , are electrically connected in parallel and thermally coupled to a cold face 51 and a hot face 52. The DC power supply has an adjustable output to regulate the temperature of the devices (column 5, lines 42-56). Further, a computer 80 runs an automation software, which enables automatic data acquisition and temperature control. Based on a control algorithm, computer 80 sends control signals to a Lawson 202 board (control 64 of FIG. 3A for differential temperature control), which, in turn, sends analog (0-5 Volt) control signals 88 and 89 to DC power supply 60 and heat exchange system 36, respectively (column 7, lines 34-40).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a temperature regulator that adjusts the temperature of an X-ray detector comprising “a thermo-electric device having a positive voltage contact and a negative voltage contact that responds to the controller being in receipt of the temperature data from the thermal sensor, the contacts configured to allow reversing a voltage applied thereto.” El-Husayni fails to describe or suggest the claimed contacts configured to allow reversing a voltage applied thereto. In particular, El-Husayni describes a power supply having an adjustable output (0-5 Volt) to provide a DC current to two thermoelectric units. The power supply described in El-Husayni does not provide allow reversing of voltage. Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over El-Husayni.

Claims 2,3 and 5-7 depend from independent claim 1. When the recitations of claims 2,3 and 5-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent claims 2,3 and 5-7 are likewise patentable over El-Husayni for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 16, as amended, recites a system that adjusts a temperature in a X-ray detector comprising “a thermo-electric device having a positive voltage contact and negative voltage contact that responds to the controller being in receipt of the temperature data from the thermal sensor, the contacts configured to allow reversing a voltage applied thereto.” As discussed above, El-Husayni fails to describe or suggest the claimed contacts configured to allow reversing a voltage applied thereto. Therefore, Applicants submit, for at least the reasons set forth above, that claim 16 is patentable over El-Husayni.

Claims 17-19 and 21-23 depend from independent claim 16. When the recitations of claims 17-19 and 21-23 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 16, Applicants submit that dependent claims 17-19 and 21-23 are likewise patentable over El-Husayni for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 9 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levinson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,098,408). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that claims 9 and 15 depend from independent claims 1 and 10, respectively. When the recitations of claims 9 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 1 and 10, respectively, Applicants submit that dependent claims 9 and 15 are likewise patentable over Levinson et al. for at least the reasons set forth above.

Claims 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Levinson et al. (U.S. Patent 6,098,408) in view of Maydanich (U.S. Patent 6,370,881). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 16 and that even from a cursory review of Maydanich, it is clear that Maydanich fails to make up for the deficiencies of Levinson et al. Therefore, when the recitations of claims 23 and 24 are considered in combination with the recitations of claim 16, and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that claims 23 and 24 are patentable over Levinson et al. in combination with Maydanich.

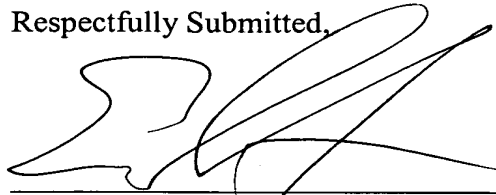
Finally, Applicants have amended claim 12 to correct a minor typographical error, namely, to change a semi-colon to a colon.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to teach or suggest the claimed invention and all of the pending claims in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited. Should anything remain in order to place the present application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Sotiriou', written over a horizontal line.

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